

HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st 1941.



GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report in the shortened form laid down for the period of the war.

Area	96,486 acres
Population	19,030
Inhabited houses	4,955
Rateable Value	£38,358
Sum raised by ld rate	£178:9:2

STATISTICS

BIRTHS	M	F	Total	Rate per 1000 population.
Live Legitimate	125	112	237	13.6
" Illegitimate	11	12	23	(rate for England 14.2)
			260	

STILL BIRTHS				
Legitimate	4	4	8	.42
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(Rate for England .51)
			8	

DEATHS				
All causes	120	130	250	13.1 crude
				(Rate for England 12.9)
Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 year)				
Legitimate	-	7	7	Rate per 1000 live births
Illegitimate	1	-	1	26.8
			8	(Rate for England 59)

Deaths from Cancer 16 23 39
No deaths occurred from puerperal causes nor from diarrhoea under two.
The areal comparability factor is not used this year owing to "the uneven incidence of war deaths" and the great movements of population.
If this had been used as in last year the death rate would have come to 11.3 - or well below that for the country as a whole.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES														Admit.
Ages	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total	Hosptl.
Measles	13	48	64	74	78	401	153	43	35	4	4		918	
Whooping Cough	11	17	23	7	19	72	9	1	2	1			162	
Scarlet Fever			1	2	4	24	6	3	2	1	1		44	
Pneumonia			4		1	3	2		4	2	9		25	
Erysipelas											10		10	
Diphtheria									1				1	
Dysentery				1							2		3	
Ant.Pol.Myelitis								1					1	
Cer.Spin.Meningitis											1		1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3												3	
1168														

The outstanding feature was the epidemic of Measles.
Whooping Cough is also markedly up.
Notification is now satisfactory but I think many cases of whooping cough escape and some measles. The public are, however, getting used to the idea of calling the doctor for these two illnesses so that treatment is better and this alone justifies notification.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
1	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1				1				1
5	1		5				1	
15	2	1	1			1		
25	2	1	1	1	1			1
35	1						1	
45	1							
55	1							
65		1	1					
Totals	8	3	8	2	1	1	2	2

Of the larger number of new cases 3 were evacuees,,1 a soldier and 2 were not confined after notification.

One more death is credited by the Registrar General than I can trace.

The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 48. Notification is satisfactory.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M	F		M	F
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	Bronchitis	10	11
Scarlet Fever	1		Pneumonia	3	1
Tuberculosis	4	3	Other respiratory	5	1
Syphilis	1		Appendicitis		3
Influenza		2	Other digestive	4	3
Cancer	16	20	Nephritis	7	4
Diabetes	2	2	Prematurity		2
Stroke	12	14	Congenital		
Heart Disease	22	28	conditions)	2	1
Other circulatory	4	3	Suicide		1
			Violence	4	5
			Other causes	22	22

Cancer is further classified into:-

	M	F
Mouth and gullet		
Uterus		2
Stomach and duodenum	3	3
Breast		3
Other sites	13	15

GENERAL STATEMENT

HOUSING

Licensing of condemned houses for war-time occupation was initiated during the year. In no case was the owner encouraged to spend nor given any respite beyond the war period so that these houses remain on the condemned list and are immediately available for the re-housing programme of the future.

DIPHTHERIA INOCULATION.

This was the most valuable and successful piece of Public Health progress since re-housing. The start was made on the children. Toxoid was supplied free by the Ministry, the figures of school children and those under 5 were supplied by the County M.O.H. and the work done by myself. The only public expense that fell on the District Council was for instruments and dressings and as some of this was spread over the other districts I serve it was relatively negligible. Its success may be judged by the figures:- 79% of school age children and 47% of those under 5 were fully immunised. 5000 children were done in the four districts of Hartismere, Eye, Wainford and Bungay. A few adults were done who specially asked for it.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

The establishments, generally remain the same.

Certain of the First Aid Points, defined by military authority, were up-graded and supplied with additional material. This applied to Botesdale, Stradbroke and Mendlesham in your district and to the Borough of Eye.

The position of the smaller villages was also reviewed as it is now regarded as desirable that every one should have some services. The response was encouraging, many people agreed to be trained in First Aid and the villages subscribed generously for the provision of equipment.

The result now is that, of your 52 parishes no less than 48 have a First Aid point of some sort and I have no doubt that the 100% will be reached in 1942.

HUBERT PEDLER

M. O. H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1941.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Water Schemes for both Eastern and Western Parishes were completed during the year and handed over to the Council for supply to the Public.

The Eastern Area affords supply in the principal roads of 14 Parishes; and the Western in 8 Parishes.

The water being heavily laden with iron causes considerable dissatisfaction owing to the final heavy yellow deposit, and its cloudy and muddy appearance during the process of sedimentation. Although analytically the water is wholesome, its appearance reacts against its general use by the public. Plant for the extraction of iron was proposed and agreed by the Council but was afterwards deleted by the Ministry on the grounds of war economy. The question should be re-opened.

But the Water Scheme as it is, has already proved a boon in areas where no water other than pond water existed; and which, during the autumn months, dried up entirely.

Including Palgrave, 22 parishes are supplied with water, which with the exception of Stradbroke, Laxfield and Palgrave, are all stand-pipe supplies.

Many farmers and dairymen ask that a supply should be afforded them, but for the present the Council's policy is that in the first instance essential household needs shall be supplied. Later, the question of other supplies may be considered.

SEWERAGE.

The Sewerage Schemes at Stradbroke and Laxfield are functioning well, but close attention is necessary at the works to prevent nuisance due to the relatively small flow of sewage normally issuing at the works which were designed to take a much larger flow. No doubt war conditions have held back many properties from connecting to the sewers, but this will probably adjust itself when conditions again become normal.

At Fressingfield the nuisance in the brook near Low Road and the Church still exists, upon which remedial measures of disinfection have taken place, but these are only a palliative not a cure. Later, the Sewerage Scheme as proposed may materialise.

SCAVENGING.

The direction regarding salvage has to some extent removed the nuisance of the used tin can; as now the disused can is collected by the local authority for salvage as metal. But the old glass bottle and other refuse is still a problem in the built-up portions of the Parishes. Regarding the disposal of night soil, some properties still have difficulty in night soil disposal, but in Stradbroke and Laxfield this need not again offer any problem, as the sewers and water are available for the installation of water closets where trouble is experienced.

SALVAGE.

During the year 21 tons 7 cwts. of paper was dispatched to the Mills and 2 tons of bones, 10 cwts. of rags and 11 tons 9 cwts. of scrap metal were collected and disposed of to merchants. 25 tons were disposed of privately to merchants.

MILK PRODUCTION

The demand for an increased supply of milk is being met by the farmers and 9 fresh premises were registered during the year. Structural improvements were carried out in 6 cases.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND KNACKERS YARDS.

The former are still not operating in the district and the latter have been conducted without complaint.

HOUSING.

Few complaints have been received of bad housing conditions, undoubtedly due to the sufferance of the public under war conditions. But, where necessary, essential repairs are being carried out. These, however are greatly hampered by the lack of materials and labour, much labour has been taken from local work to meet the demands of the many military requirements in the neighbourhood.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Twenty nine premises were disinfected after cases of infectious diseases.

EVACUATION SCHEME.

There has been no large influx of evacuees and no undue trouble has been caused through overcrowding or disease.

H. AUSTIN REEVE.

Sanitary Inspector.